

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT
FACT SHEET
May 9, 2001**

Purpose: To consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposals.

TRIBAL SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT

- The TAC met on May 7 and updated the upriver spring chinook run size. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 384,000 at the mouth of the Columbia.
- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not to exceed a 13% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 50,000 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery.

<i>Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Estimate to date	Projection to end of spring season
Winter Sturgeon Gillnet Fishery	85	85
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 4/15)	6,868	6,868
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 4/16)	2,260	3,100
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19)	16,890	16,890
Second Commercial Fishery Opening (4/26-4/28)	14,270	14,270
Third Commercial Fishery Opening (5/4-5/5)	2,720	2,720
Remaining Available Harvest	6,827	5,987
Total	49,920	49,920

STOCK STATUS

- Preseason expectation was for a return of 364,600 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.

- Through May 8 a total of just over 342,000 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- The spring chinook run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. The run peaked on April 18. However the dam counts have dropped sharply from the peak. Currently the dam counts are fluctuating at a moderate level and again seem to tracking the pattern seen in 1977 or possibly a little later. If counts continue at a moderate level the run should at least be as high as the updated forecast.

ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 4,000 - 5,000 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.
- Additionally, the tribes will continue allowing commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish. Because the platform fishery has not been catching many fish, the tribes do not expect the total harvest (subsistence and commercial) from the platform fishery to exceed 3,100 through the end of May. Tribal staff will continue to monitor the platform fishery and adjust the total catch estimate if necessary to not exceed the total allowable impacts.
- The steelhead impacts from the first two commercial openings were 220 fish. Monitoring information to date suggests that the majority of steelhead harvested so far this year have been holdovers from the 2000 run. Only a very small proportion of the 2001 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate low steelhead impacts in future commercial openings.
- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.
- Based on tribal staff monitoring, the platform fishery has not been performing as expected. This appears to be because of extremely low flows and no spill. The fish appear to be migrating in the mid-channel making them relatively inaccessible to platform fishers.
- After this opening, the tribes may propose additional fisheries dependant on the number of fish left available for harvest.

<i>Proposed Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Thursday May 10 to 6:00 PM Saturday May 12
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary at this time of year.